

Und. Day 6<sup>th</sup>

Washington Dec. 31. 1850

Dear Sir

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26<sup>th</sup> inst. It gives me much gratification to hear from you, as I have ever been anxious to place the few specimens I have brought with me in the hands of one so widely & justly celebrated for his devotion to the Cause of Science.

I had already requested permission from Col. Abert to submit them to you for examination, to which he gave an instant & hearty Consent. As soon therefore, as I can unpack them & mark distinctly their precise localities, I will forward the Collection to you.

I am afraid however that you will find little that is new, as my constant occupation gave me but little time to attend to this branch of the expedition myself. I had with me a person for the express purpose, but he, being violently attacked with the Californian fever, unceremoniously abandoned his post & walked off to the mines, leaving me to shift for myself. Consequently the Collection was made by persons but little acquainted with botany, & I fear you will not find it of any great value. Such as it is however, I put it into your hands with pleasure & perfect Confidence.

As to the time a report will be necessary, I cannot as yet say. There is a good deal of drawing to be done which will not be completed before the termination of the present Session of Congress. Enough however will probably be done to authorize the presentation of the report, which can then be ordered to be printed; & finished during the recess. Such is my present impression.

If you will be so good as to designate the point to which you will have the box sent, I will forward it to you at once.

I am, dear Sir,

Very Respectfully  
Your Obedt Servt.

Howard Crosby

Prof. John Torrey }  
New York } 3

Washington Aug 11. 1851

My dear Sir

Your note of the 7<sup>th</sup> inst was not received before this morning. I am much pleased to find that the drawings are completed, I hope they have been done to your satisfaction. I agree with you that the engravings should be done as you suggest by Prestelle. The printing may perhaps be an object to Ackerman, & indeed I should prefer that he should do them as the plates will in that case be all together. I hope you found something amongst the plants worth the trouble of bringing home. The specimens are all dated I believe, & I shall have to refer to my journals to locate them. If you will send me a list with the dates I will affix a column of localities to it, & it will in addition, be of assistance to me in the text of my report.

If you please I should be pleased to see the plates before they are sent to the Engravers if you will be so good as to send them to me under cover of an envelope directed to Col. Abert, which will save expense, & be a more safe way of transmitting them. I wrote to Schott this morning & remitted him the amount charged in his account. I will write to Ackerman about the printing -

Prof. John Torrey  
Princeton N. J.

I am, my dear Sir

Yours very truly

Howard Crosby

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Washington Sept. 1. 1851

My dear Sir

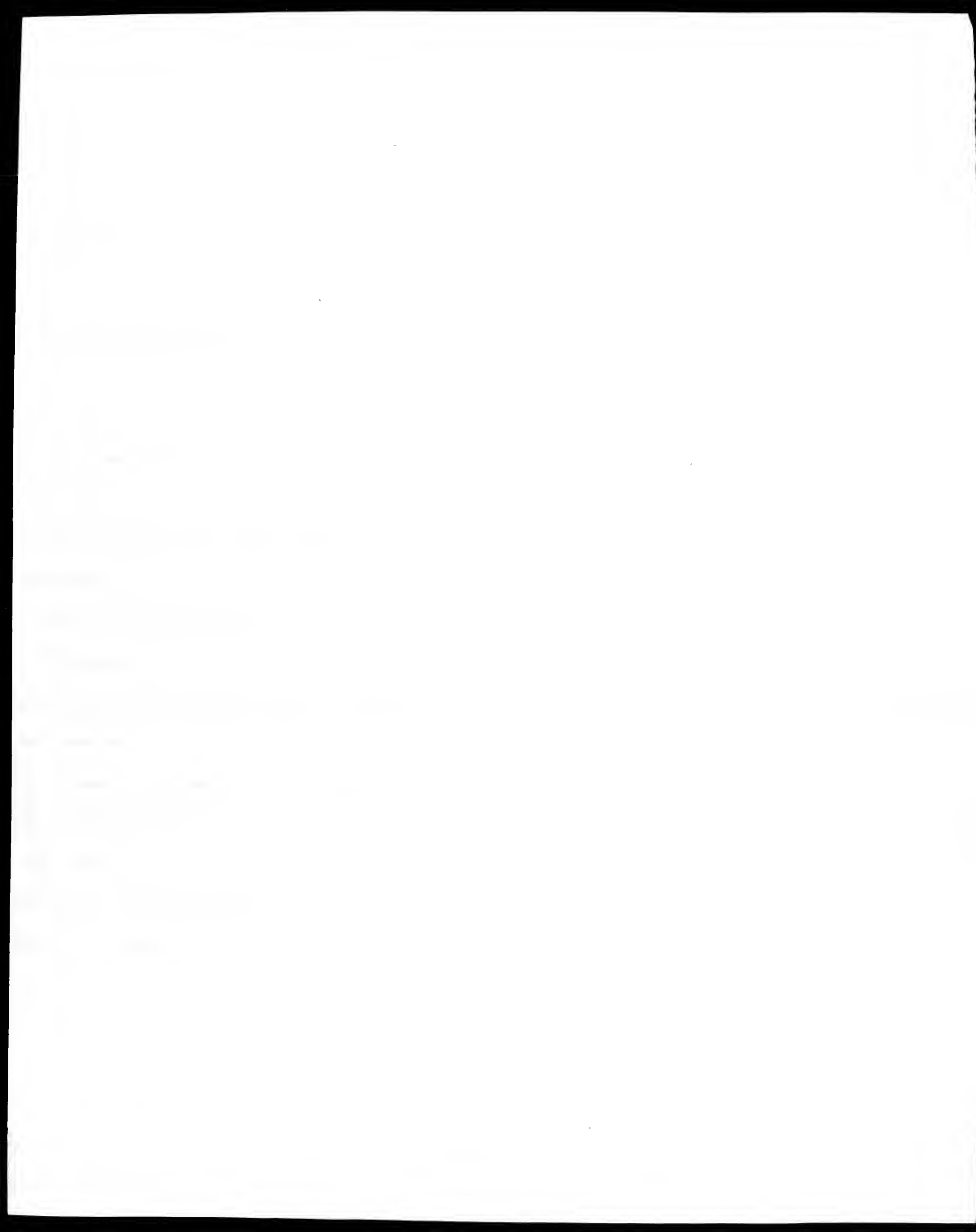
I wrote you some weeks since respecting the drawings made by Mr. Scott, which you offered to forward to me before sending them to the engraver. To that letter I have received no reply, which induces me to fear that you have not received it. Upon reflection I do not know that it is necessary that I should see the plates before you send them to the engraver. If you are satisfied with them that is all sufficient. Be so good as to inform me, what will be the price of engraving & that of the stones, (if you have made any agreement) as Ackerman will have to do the printing & pay for the engraving. He wishes the information from me that he may be able to include it in his estimate to be laid before the Secretary of the Senate.



Yours most Sincerely  
Howard Crosby

Prof. John Torrey  
Princeton N.J.

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Washington Dec 15. 1857.

My dear Sir,

Your welcome letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> inst was rec<sup>d</sup> this morning. I wrote to you some weeks since but directed my letter to Princeton instead of New York, so I suppose you did not receive it. On Saturday a gentleman called upon me with a portfolio of plants that were collected by my Mormon assistant, on his return to Salt Lake. They are few in number, but appear to be in very good condition. They were all collected on the North side of the Platte, & might be interesting as furnishing some comparisons with my collection which as you know was made altogether on the South side of that river. I will forward them to you this afternoon. If you find any amongst them worthy of attention, it would perhaps be as well to add them to our list, as they were made by one of my own people, who was in my pay at the time.

I am much pleased to find that you think the collection will not be discreditable. I own I was somewhat fearful about it after the scurvy trick played me by my naturalist Dr Blake. I do not know how he fares in your hands, but both Hall & Baird condemn his ignorance, in mineralogy & zoology without measure.

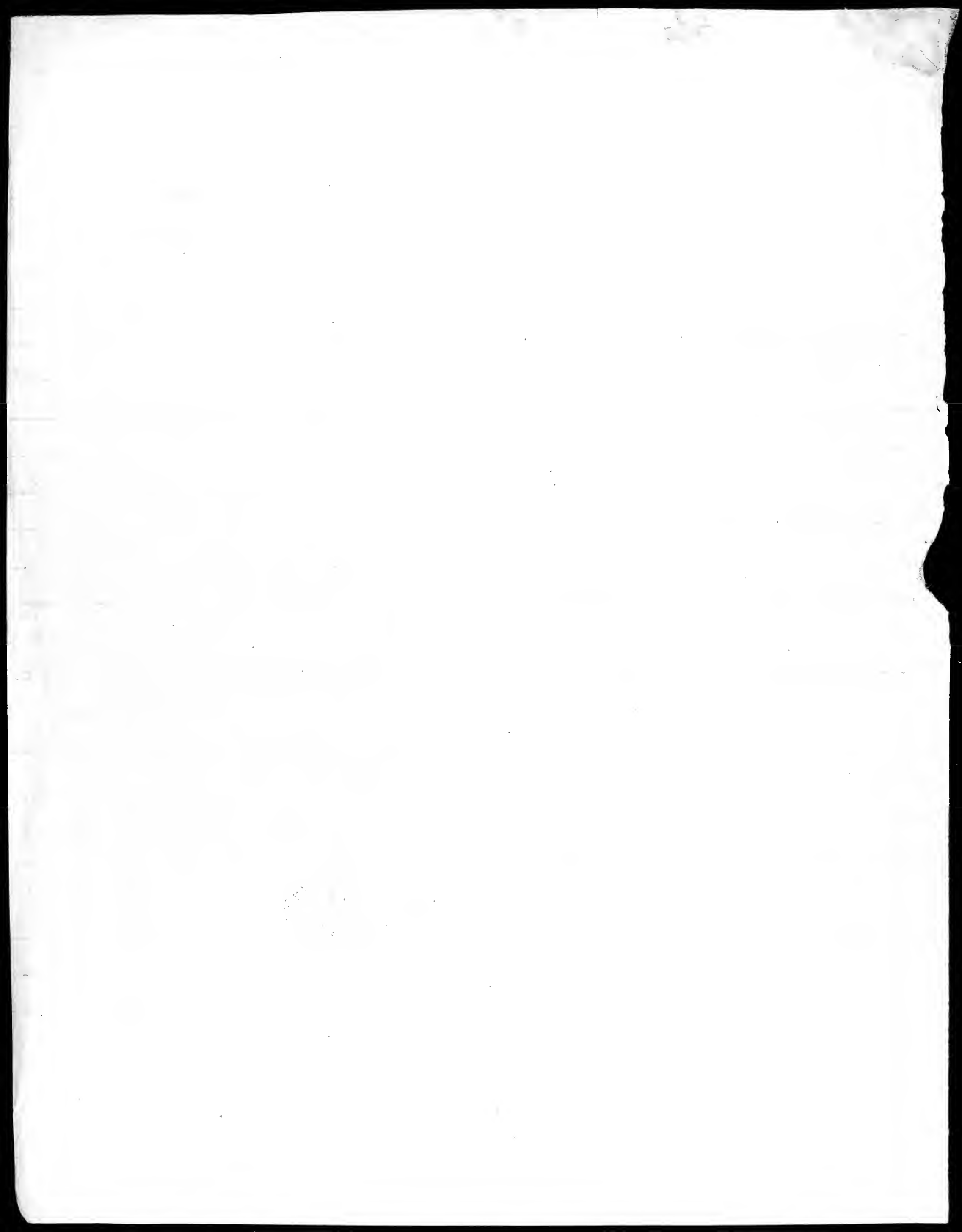
I rec<sup>d</sup> a letter from Prestele enclosing his bill for the work, which I handed to Ackerman, who has the contract with the Senate, & to whom the stones are to be forwarded for printing. I have not seen any of the proofs, but hope they are satisfactory to you. The proofsheets of the letter press shall be sent you, as you desire.

I am, My dear Sir

Prof. John Torrey  
New York

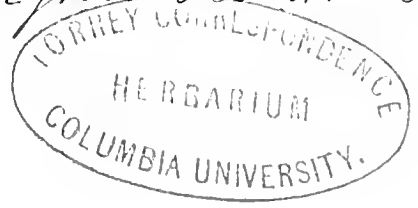
Yours very truly

Howard Crosby





Washington Feb. 6. 1852



My dear Sir

Your welcome letter of the 31<sup>st</sup> ult. was duly received. I have seen Ackerman as you supposed, & he says that all things are ready as soon as you look over the plates.

It most fortunately happens to have a copy of Crop's expedition, & send it to you, although I do not think you will glean much from it as to either the Geography, Topography, or natural productions of the Country over which he passed. He was too busy in superintending the transportation of the Rifle Regiment (being the Quarter master) to have time to attend to any thing else. He is a very fine fellow, & a perfect gentleman, however, & you would be pleased with him. He is now stationed in New York (some where near the Battery) & if you would call on him, I do me the honor to mention my name to him, I am sure he would be most happy to make your acquaintance.

As to the expedition you speak of, I think things look pretty fair, although every thing is as yet, so inchoate that I cannot give you any thing definite on the subject.

My desire is to make an exploration from somewhere near the heads of the Yellowstone, Northward, embracing the heads of the Columbian, & all that region, not confining it within any precise limits.

The examination should embrace the Geography, Botany, Geology, & Natural history, & would probably occupy at least two years. If the cooperation of all men of science could be brought to bear in influencing the minds of individual members of Congress with favor I think the thing could be accomplished without difficulty. Who will have the conduct of it, should it be ordered, I, of course cannot say. If properly fitted out nothing would give me more pleasure than to be attached to it, & I am in hopes that perhaps the Topog<sup>r</sup> Bureau may give me some hand in it.

At all events, I should like to see the expedition ordered, let it be conducted by whom it may. Good cannot but result from it, & doubtless very valuable contributions to science. The whole thing is as yet in embryo, but I trust before Congress adjourns it may result in something tangible.

A physician would be an indispensable

adjunct to such a party, & should be add  
to his medical qualifications, a knowledge of  
any other branch of Natural Science, his  
usefulness would of course be very much  
increased - I will endeavour to keep  
you advised of the progress of the matter  
& should be pleased should you advocate  
it amongst the proper people. It will  
not do to make a flourish of trumpets  
before hand, or it may defeat the whole  
plan. The field is a glorious one, & I  
trust we may be able to carry it through.  
I got your plants &c from Capt Handcastle  
this morning. Mr Ackerman who returns  
to New York this afternoon, says they are too  
bulky for him to carry in his Carpet bag. If  
you wish to have them sent by Express, please  
advise me.

I send you duplicate Copies of your  
manuscript, which I suppose you would  
desire to have properly prepared for the  
press. Will you be so good as to have them  
compared, & the proper ~~in~~ conventional  
marks for the printer inserted, so plainly  
that he can make no mistake. As the  
paper embraces so many technicalities  
I do not like to assume the responsibility  
of sending it to press without your imprimatur. I will send you also, the proof sheets

as soon as they are printed, that the matter  
may go to the public, just as you desire it.

Be so good as to return the papers to  
me as soon as you can make it convenient  
as I am now nearly ready for the press.

Yours most cordially

Horace Mann

Dr John Torrey.  
New York.

